

**Alexandria Chapel (relocated)**  
**CH-309**  
**Chicamuxen vic.**  
**Public**

**Circa 1900**

Alexandria Chapel is typical of the rural churches built in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. The front-gable frame structure stands directly on the north side of Chicamuxen Road and is characterized by its central belltower attached to the principal elevation that serves as a foyer. The structure is three bays wide and four bays in length with a one-story addition attached to the rear elevation. It features an original turned wooden pinnacle, lancet windows and a decorative 3-part triangle-shaped window on the belltower's south elevation.

Alexandria Chapel (relocated) is significant as the home of one of the earliest African-American congregations in Charles County. The church is said to have been established by the Jordan Family on land they had acquired after Emancipation, and land records confirm that in 1872 William A. Jordan purchased 5 ½ acres of land in Chicamuxen from Thomas J. and Sophia Milstead. According to oral tradition, on this tract a log chapel was erected and camp meetings were held nearby. Originally known as Jordan's Chapel, a frame church was constructed in 1888. At the turn of the 20th century the present Alexandria Chapel was erected at a nearby site where the Alexandria Church Cemetery is still in use (CH-128). After the construction of MD 224, the church was relocated to its current location.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-309

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexandria Chapel (relocated)  
other

### 2. Location

street and number 5601 Chicamuxen Road not for publication  
city, town Indian Head X vicinity  
county Charles

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Alexandria Chapel Methodist Church  
street and number 3640 Stump Neck Road telephone 301-743-3939  
city, town Indian Head state MD zip code 20640

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 29 p. 162  
city, town La Plata liber 75 folio 252

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report  
☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	1 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	1 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	1 objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	1 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. CH-309

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Alexandria Chapel is typical of the rural churches built in Charles County at the turn of the 20th century. The front-gable frame structure stands directly on the north side of Chicamuxen Road and is characterized by its central belltower attached to the principal elevation that serves as a foyer. The structure is three bays wide and four bays in length with a one story addition attached to the rear elevation. The structure features an original turned wooden pinnacle, lancet windows and a decorative 3-part triangle-shaped window on the belltower's south elevation. The structure has a composition roof and replacement vinyl siding. The original structure stands on a concrete piers infilled with block foundation, while the addition has a continuous concrete block foundation. The interior was not available at the time of the survey. Although some accounts state that a frame structure was built on the original site in 1888, the limited visible architectural features indicate that 1900 is a more likely construction date for this structure.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-309

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1900; 1951

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1900; 1951

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Alexandria Chapel (relocated) is significant as the home of one of the earliest African-American congregations in Charles County. The church is said to have been established by the Jordan Family on land they had acquired after Emancipation. Land records confirm that in 1872, William A. Jordan purchased 5 1/2 acres of land in Chicamuxen from Thomas J. And Sophia Milstead. (GAH 3/500). According to oral tradition, on this tract a log chapel was erected and camp meetings were held nearby. Originally known as Jordan's Chapel, a frame church was constructed in 1888. At the turn of the 20th century the present Alexandria Chapel was erected at a nearby site where the Alexandria Church Cemetery is still in use (CH-128). After the construction of MD 224, the church was relocated to its current location. The 8.5 acre parcel had been acquired in 1941 by the Alexandria Chapel Methodist Church trustees.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. CH-309

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 8

Acreage of historical setting 8

Quadrangle name Indian Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The Alexandria Chapel is associated with Charles County Property Tax Map 29, Parcel 162, Grid 18.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Cathy Hardy/ Historic Sites Survey

organization Charles County Planning

date 9/5/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

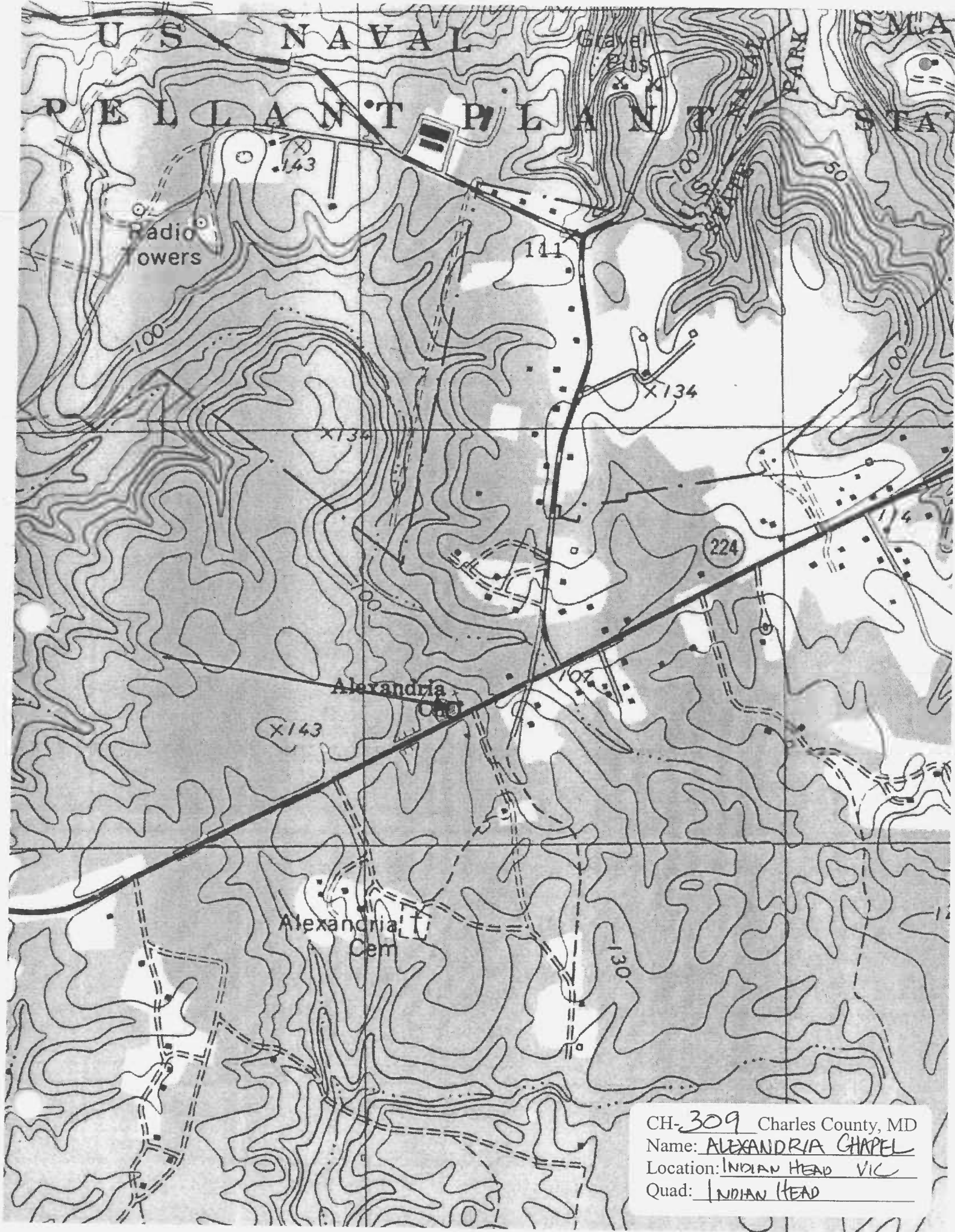
city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600



CH-309 Charles County, MD  
Name: ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL  
Location: INDIAN HEAD VIC  
Quad: INDIAN HEAD



CH-309  
ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL (relocated)  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY  
6/2002  
MD SHPO  
LOOKING WEST  
10F4



ALEXANDRIA METHODIST  
CHURCH

RE-LOCATED 9-23-51

PASTOR

REV. N. M. GOSBY

CH-309  
ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL (relocated)  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY  
6/2002  
MD SHPO  
CORNERSTONE

2084



CH-309  
ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL (relocated)  
CHARLES CO. MD  
C. HARDY

6/2002  
MD SHPO  
REAR ELEVATION

30P4



CH-309  
ALEXANDRIA CHAPEL (relocated)  
CHARLES CO. MD

C. HARDY

6/2002

MD SHPO

LOOKING N

4 of 4

Charles - 309  
Alexandria Chapel (Methodist)  
Rt.224  
Rison, MD 20681

1891, 1951

Access:Public

This church was moved from its original site in 1951. It stands on the west side of Rt.224 in an area known as Chickamuxen. Alexandria Chapel is in an isolated region of western Charles County. It's history is obscure but the congregation was founded in the later half of the nineteenth century. The church membership is made up of small farmers and agricultural workers. The original site of the church was on Stump Neck.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH - 309  
MAGI#090309<sup>55</sup>08

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Alexandria Chapel (Jordan's Chapel)

AND/OR COMMON

Alexandria M.E. Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(MD Rt. 224) Mason Springs Chicamuxen Road

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

Chickamuxen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees, Alexandria Chapel  
C/O Rev. Harvey R. Custis

Telephone #: 753-3553

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 121

CITY, TOWN

Indian Head

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD, 20640**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Court House

Liber #: 17

Folio #: 128

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Le Plata

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



Ch 309

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED DATE 1891

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This church was moved from its original site near Stump Neck Rd. in 1951. It stands on the west side of Rt. 22½ in an area known as Chickamuxen. It is reached by a flight of 11 concrete steps from the road. The entrance is another 25' from the top of these steps. The church faces east. It is 36' across the front facade and 60' in depth. It is constructed of weatherboard now covered with asbestos shingles. There is a small entrance tower with 6-panel double wooden doors. There is a triangular clear glass window mid way up the tower. The tower has a louvered belfry with a squat spire. There are two three-ft. 3-over-3 clear-glass lancet windows in the front facade (one on each side of the entrance tower). There are 4 of these identical lancet windows on the north side of the building and four more on the south side.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CH - 309  
MAGI#090309<sup>55</sup>708

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alexandria Chapel (Jordan's Chapel)

AND/OR COMMON

Alexandria M.E. Church

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(MD Rt.224) Mason Springs Chicamuxen Road

CITY, TOWN

Rison

VICINITY OF

Chickamuxen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Charles

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☐ BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROCESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

#### PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☒ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees, Alexandria Chapel

C/O Rev. Harvey R. Custis

Telephone #: 753-6553

STREET & NUMBER

Box 121

CITY, TOWN

Indian Head

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
MD, 20640

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Court House

Liber #: 17

Folio #: 128

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ ORIGINAL SITE  
☒ MOVED DATE 1891

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This church was moved from its original site near Stump Neck Rd. in 1951. It stands on the west side of Rt. 224 in an area known as Chickamuxen. It is reached by a flight of 11 concrete steps from the road. The entrance is another 25' from the top of these steps. The church faces east. It is 36' across the front facade and 60' in depth. It is constructed of weatherboard now covered with asbestos shingles. There is a small entrance tower with 6-panel double wooden doors. There is a triangular clear glass window mid way up the tower. The tower has a louvered belfry with a squat spire. There are two three-ft. 3-over-3 clear-glass lancet windows in the front facade (one on each side of the entrance tower). There are 4 of these identical lancet windows on the north side of the building and four more on the south side.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

CN-309

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1891-1951

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Alexandria Chapel is in an isolated area of western Charles County. It's history is obscure but the congregation has been located near Rison since the later half of the nineteenth century. The church membership is made up of small farmers and agricultural workers. It is a very poor region. The original site of this church was on Stump Neck.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION \_\_\_\_\_

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

James W. Clark, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Commission on Afro-American  
History & Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

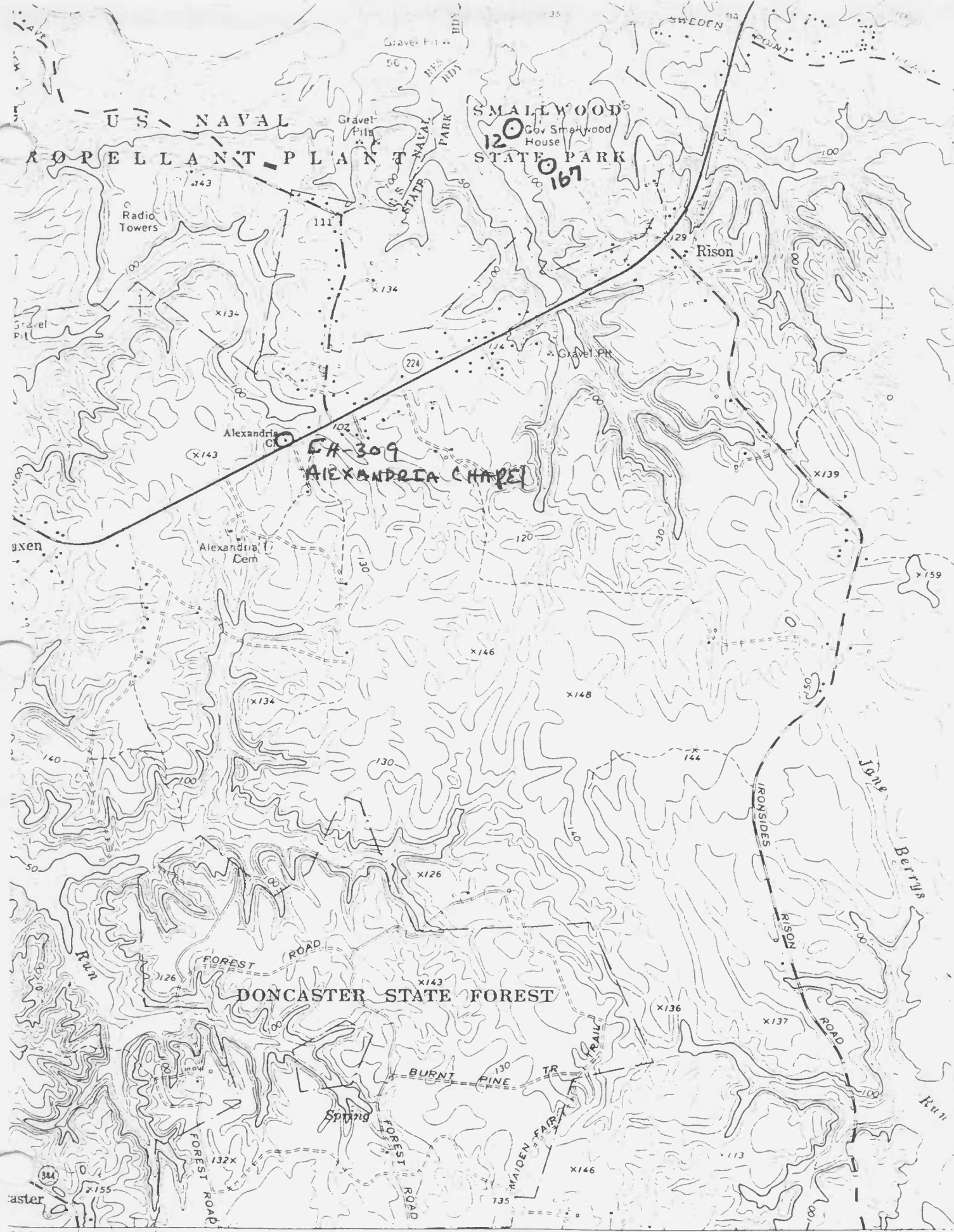
STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

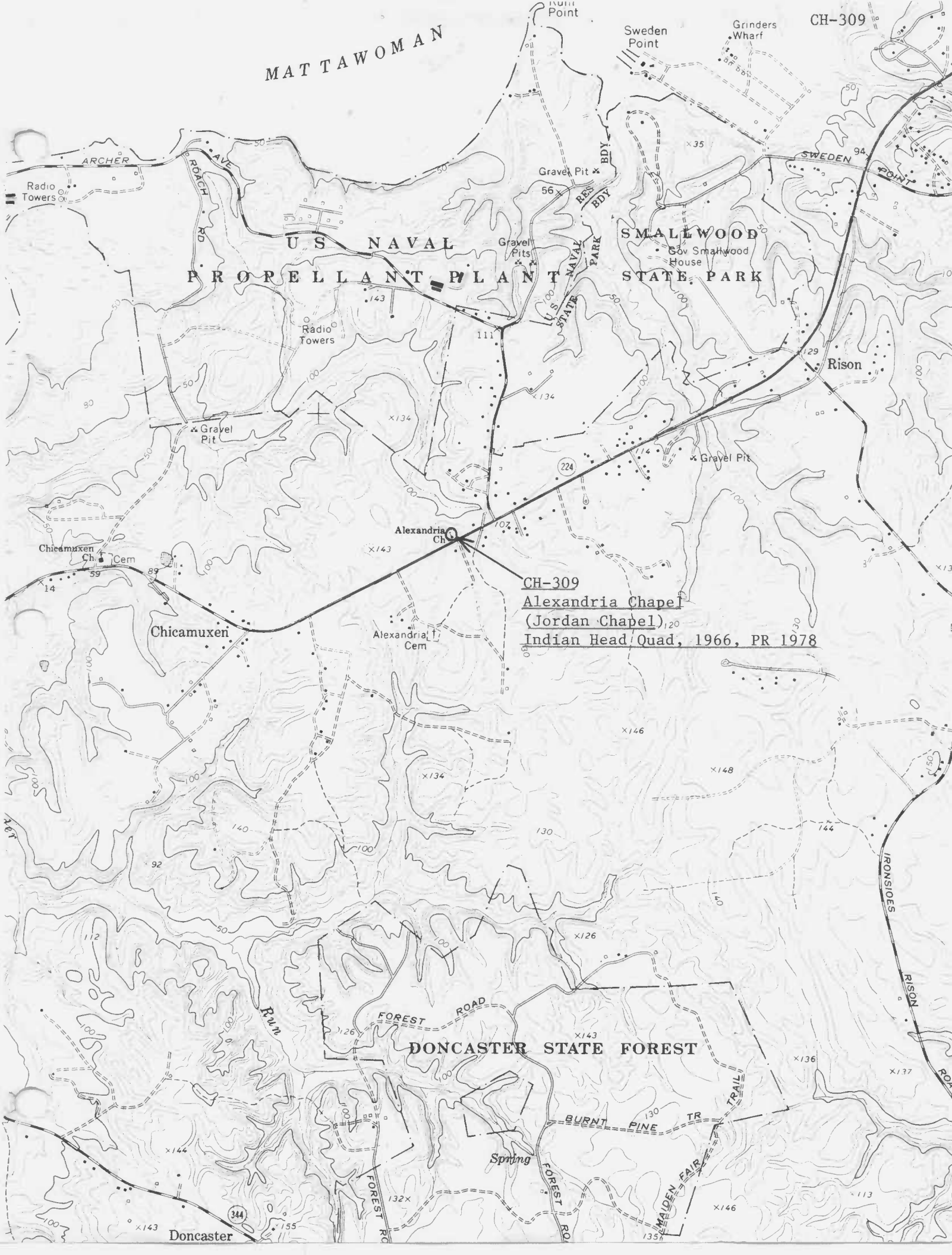
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



MATTAWOMAN

CH-309



U.S. NAVAL  
PROPELLANT PLANT

SMALLWOOD  
STATE PARK

Alexandria  
Ch

CH-309  
Alexandria Chapel  
(Jordan Chapel),<sup>120</sup>  
Indian Head Quad, 1966, PR 1978

DONCASTER STATE FOREST

Doncaster





CH-309

Alexandria Chapel  
Rison, Charles County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

CH-309

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
East elevation  
2/81



CH-309

Alexandria Chapel  
Rison, Charles County, Maryland  
Michael Hosford

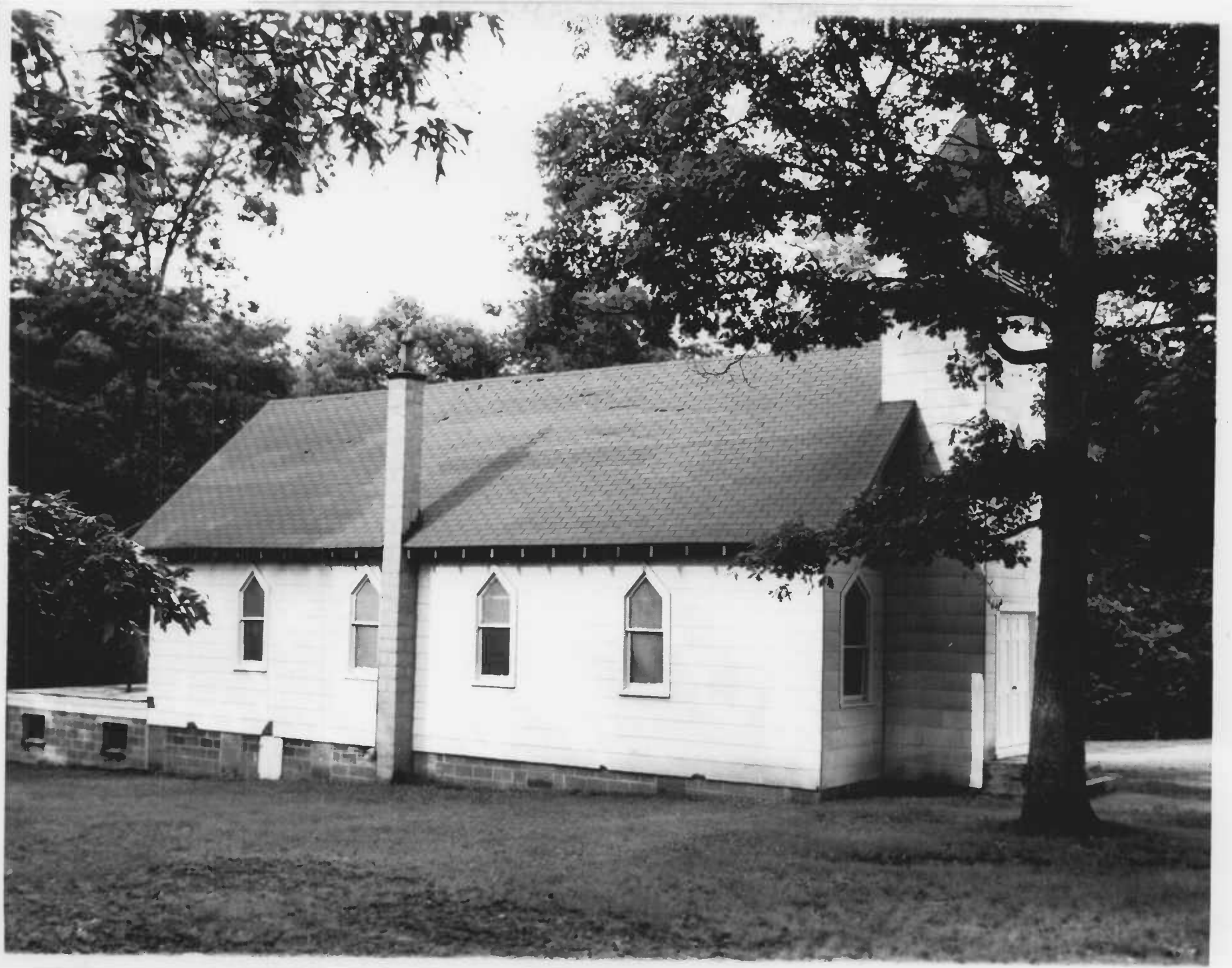
CH-309

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD  
Southeast elevation  
2/81



ALEXANDRIA UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
WORSHIP SERVICE 12 NOON  
CHURCH SCHOOL 10-45 A.M.  
PASTOR HARVEY R. CUSTIS

CH 309  
Jordan Chapel  
Chicamuxen, Md.  
Facade, south elevation  
GWM  
7-77



Ch 309  
Jordan Chapel  
Chicamuxen, Md.  
West elevation  
GWM  
7-77